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MAPLE RIDGE FARM

CONSTABLE, N. Y.

Market Gardening and Choice Tomato Seed Growing



Bushel of Langdon's Northern Adirondack Earliana Tomato

**EARLIEST, SMOOTHEST, HARDEST AND BEST EXTRA
EARLY TOMATO EVER GROWN.**

We wish to call your attention to a new strain of the well-known Earliana, of which variety there is more grown throughout the country than of all other early varieties combined. We are aware that the deterioration of the general run of commercial seed may have prejudiced you against this valuable early variety, and with good reason; but if extra earliness combined with smoothness and large size means anything to you, kindly look over our little circular and file it away for reference when it comes time to order your next lot of seed.

We are not seedsmen, being only market gardeners who offer for sale this seed from a strain of our early tomatoes on which we have worked for eight years improving it for our own use.

We began eight years ago by going over the field ahead of the first pickers, selecting the first ripening fruit here and there, judging by earliness, large size, thick blocky shape, prolificness, smoothness and color.

This bushel was then cut and all fruit rejected which did not come up to an ideal inside and out—about half the bushel. This was our stock seed. We did this for several years until we learned of the theory of Line Breeding, which was then adopted, and the results have exceeded our expectations. In fact our Northern Adirondack Earliana is almost a new variety in its superiority over the original strain; but we offer it as THE Earliana instead of giving it a new name as many seedsmen are doing with many kinds of seeds.

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Do you realize how far north our tomato seed is grown? Look on your map north of Malone, four miles from the Canadian line, where the temperature drops to 25 below zero, and you will know where the seed of the earliest, smoothest and hardest Earliana Tomato is grown in its perfection.

Regarding this strain of seed we can refer you to hundreds of our pleased customers from Maine to California, although it has been on the market only three years—in which time its sale has increased 2,000 per cent.—and also to the seedsmen of whom we bought our package in 1904.

He says in his catalogue: "It is a week earlier than the old strain of this variety. This new strain was developed by one of our customers in the extreme northern part of New York State where it is necessary to have very early ripening varieties as the seasons are short. The fruit not only ripens extremely early, but it is also very solid and colors well. The tomatoes are so solid that they produce very little seed—less than half as much as the ordinary strain of this variety. We had quite a lot of plants of this variety growing side by side with several other strains from different sources, including our own seed, all with the same treatment in every way. The new strain ripened a week earlier than any other and produced a good picking of ripe fruit before any had ripened on the other plants. Where extreme earliness is desired we advise all gardeners to use the new strain. The plants are hardly as vigorous as our own strain of this variety but they produce big crops on rich land."

One of the Southern State Experiment Stations writes us as follows:—

"We experimented with your strain of Earliana Tomato this past season in competition with Earliana seed from three other sources, and yours exhibited such great superiority over everything else that we feel it is only just to you that you should know about our results. Your Earliana was grown along side of 80 different varieties of tomatoes and it beat everything in the plot in respect to earliness, uniformity and disease resistance. The yield of fancy fruits from your strain was 206 bushels per acre. These tomatoes were sold at an average price of \$3.00 per bushel, making the product worth over \$600.00 per acre. Only about 10 per cent. of the crop from your strain was unsalable, or classed as culls. We are in hearty accord with your efforts to improve the existing strains of seeds, and while we are not given to indiscriminate testimonial writing, we cannot refrain from publicly commending your efforts."

Another Experiment Station in the South inserted a splendid full page lithograph of our strain in their yearly report with this text:—

"Adirondack Tomato—season 1911. Seven on one branch, weighing 51½ oz. Stalk over six feet high. All blemishes bred out. Largest tomato shown is 4 inches in diameter."

J. M. Myer, Calif., writes: "I tried your strain of Earliana last year, and alongside of two other crack strains of Earliana yours were ripe a full week first and 25 per cent. better in every way—the finest in early tomatoes I ever saw, and I have been at it for thirty years."

Mr. W. I. Young, Fla., sowed ten pounds last year in a comparative trial with a \$4.50 fancy strain he had been using, and we have just filled his order for ten pounds more at \$6. Such a trial speaks for itself. Mr. Young has used our seed for three years.

The Pennsylvania State College reports in part, Oct. 22, 1910: "This year the number of marketable ripe fruits per plant was 46.1, weighing 10.33 pounds per plant. The unmarketable fruits averaged 13.25 per plant, weighing .81 pounds. The per cent. of marketable fruit per plant for the season was 75.50 per plant by count and 92.8 by weight."

Think of it, Earliana at the rate of more than 700 50-pound baskets per acre of marketable fruit.

"Grower," of the Market Growers Journal says:—"This Langdon Strain I have found all they claim for it." Also on Nov. 10, 1910, he writes:—"I think your strain the finest early variety ever produced for out-of-door use, and for forcing is very good."

"Grower," runs 100,000 square feet of glass and knows what a good tomato should be.

Wm. W. Kling, N. Y., writes:—"I read what 'Grower' in the Market Growers Journal says about your strain of Earliana, also your experience. In one very important particular I agree with you both, and that is, your strain comes on much faster. Just before I commenced this letter I made a careful inspection of yours and the others, side by side, and I am sure that more than half the fruit has been picked off, and a very large share of the remainder is ripe now, when my Jersey seed has not ripened more than one-third of its fruit, and the vines do not show half the ripe fruit that yours do now. The heavier picking earlier in the season is of course what determines the profitableness of the crop, and consequently no grower could afford to use any other seed at any price if yours could be obtained."

Mr. Kling had been sending to New Jersey for the earliest seed he could find, and his recommendation was entirely unsolicited. He also says later:—

"If your strain of Earliana behaves everywhere as it did with me, too much can hardly be said in its favor as a money-making proposition."

Prof. W. F. Massey is Associate Editor of the Market Growers Journal and for his department wrote the following paragraphs:—

July. "The strain of Earliana Tomatoes sent me by the Langdons, of Constable, N. Y., is certainly the best of that variety that I have ever seen. I have yet to see a gnarly fruit among them, but the old strain of Earliana is the same old crooked thing."

Aug. "The heaviest cropper under glass is the Earliana, but when I grew it under glass it was too rough. But now with the very smooth strain I have from the Langdons, I believe they will pay well under glass for mid-winter work on account of its productiveness and early maturity."

Oct. "The best early tomato I have tested is Langdon's strain of Earliana. They were uniformly smooth with me, early and productive, and I shall use them altogether for early fruit."

Oct. "I had Early June, June Pink, Earliana in three stocks and Bonney Best among those claimed to be the earliest. The best early tomato in my trials this year was Langdon's Earliana."

Jan. "In my trials last summer the Earliana of the Langdon strain was well ahead of any other early tomato tried, both in earliness, size and quality, and was as smooth as any other sort. It seems to me that its great value, aside from good size and shape, is its habit of throwing a large, early crop all at once. Any market gardener will see the advantage of getting the most of the crop while the price is good, and this habit seems more developed in this strain than in any I have tried."

Prof. Massey also wrote this to us, "I have tried all the various strains of Earliana on the market, and yours is the only one I have found that meets my idea of what a good early tomato should be. I had them here just like the picture and believe they are the BEST EARLY TOMATO YET DEVELOPED."

We need say no more than that, but here are a few more:—

"The tomatoes I raised last year beat any other Earliana I ever saw. I had less than an acre and sold \$300.00 of fine tomatoes."—J. B. H., Ky.

"I had the earliest tomatoes and made the most money I have ever made in early tomatoes."—C. A. E., Wis.

"We tried your Grade No. 2 last year and were more than satisfied with it. We used it both in our green houses and in the open with splendid success."—G. G. Ill.

"I put out not quite 2,000 plants and what I sold net to me a little over \$300.00 worth. We are bothered with blight very badly in this locality, but I lost only a very few. Some of my neighbors lost their entire crop."—J. W. E., Wash.

NOTICE THAT OUR STRAIN IS HARDY. "In spite of the bad season I picked as high as 35 fine tomatoes from one vine at one picking."—W. C. W., Idaho.

THEY RIPEN FAST. "At Shimmo Valley Farm, Mass., they sold \$1.00 worth of Chalk's Early Jewell before Sept. 1st, 1910. In 1911, before Sept. 1st, they sold over \$150.00 from less than 200 plants of Langdon's Adirondack Earliana. So much for a choice early strain that gets in on high prices."

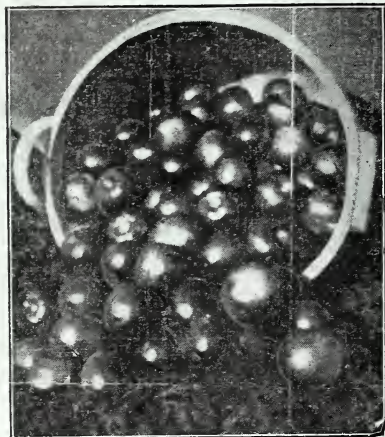
From an address by Mr. W. F. Allen, of Salisbury, Md., at the 1912 meeting of the Peninsula Horticultural Society:—

"If you are going to buy, you want to be sure that the party you are buying from is reliable and will give you just what he agrees to give you. It does not make much difference about the price you pay for it; the thing you want is the best that can be had of the variety you have selected to plant. The cost of seed is only a small item compared with the other expenditures put on the crop. In no article of commerce does the motto 'The best is the cheapest' apply with so strong a force as in the purchase of seeds."

Regarding our reliability we refer you to Mr. O. J. Barnes, Malone, N. Y., who is a member of the American Seed Trade Association. We are here to stay and will make it worth while to you to order your early tomato seed each year from the original growers. Line Breeding and our northern location has turned the trick.

If you are a member of a Gardeners' Association ask your Secretary to write for special prices by the quantity. We want to get in touch with you.

This strain is warranted to run true to varietal character from year to year, with constantly increasing superiority, as Line Breeding intelligently worked will eliminate one of the worst troubles with which a planter has to contend



A basketful from our Line Breeding Plots which is cut for Grade No. 3. Part of the seed you buy in 1913 was grown from this identical basketful. Notice the thick, blocky shape.

The cost of seed for one or ten acres is so insignificant compared with the value of the crop that we unhesitatingly advise one of the two best grades. Gardeners everywhere are learning that "Blood tells" in seeds, and that the best is the cheapest.

JUNE PINK. Having had a demand for June Pink we offer a five year selection. Personally we prefer a red tomato, but where the market demands a pink one this will suit you. This choice strain was sent us by a customer in the South who wanted seed grown as far north as possible, and we have a quantity of our own growing which we offer at the prices of our Earliana Grades Nos. 1 and 2.

Here is one which excells all others for later shipping or canning:

We have grown Matchless for our standard late crop for several years, but had a new tomato brought to our notice and tried it. It is called **RED ROCK**, and it is well named. It is harder, earlier, more prolific and larger than Matchless, and will keep in perfect condition longer than any other tomato we ever saw on account of its thick cell walls and tough skin. It ripens from the outside in instead of from the inside outward, and sound fruit picked well colored will keep two weeks or longer before getting too soft for best use. 1-16 oz. trial packets of Langdon's **RED ROCK** for 15 cents.

Our Northern Adirondack Earliana for first and Northern Grown Red Rock for a later crop make a whole team.

Order early. Each year for two years the demand has been such that we were compelled to return many orders for the two best grades.

Write your name plainly. Please do not send postage stamps—we cannot use so many.

Thanking our customers for their patronage and many expressions of kind regard, we remain

Sincerely yours,

F. & H. P. LANGDON.

Constable, N. Y., Nov. 1, 1912.

Price of Langdon's eight-year selection and Line Bred Northern Adirondack Tomato seed, postpaid:

Grade No. 1.— $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 40 cts.; 1 oz. 60 cts.; 2 oz. \$1.20; 4 oz. \$2.00; 8 oz. \$3.50; 1 lb. \$6.00.

Grade No. 2.—Seed from Crown and Selected Fruit: $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 75 cts.; 1 oz. \$1.25. Can be supplied only when in stock.

Grade No. 3.—Seed from our Line Breeding Plots, Best Private Stock, just such as we sow, supply limited: $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. \$2.00; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. \$3.00; 1 oz. \$5.00.

This grade is from Line Breeding Plots, carefully selected for size, shape and smoothness of fruit and appearance of plant, which is then cut and all fruit rejected that does not come up to the standard in solidity and small seed cavities. Can be supplied only when in stock; and we believe that seed of this grade cannot be bought elsewhere, for the cutting and sorting is not left to the judgment of hired help, it is done personally by the Junior member of the firm himself, who gives you the results of his years of experience in this line.